

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7712

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T MONTEVIDEO 3417

EXDIS

TOSEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PE UY

SUBJ: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS

REF: STATE 255877; MVD 3410 (NOTAL)

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

1. NOT ONLY ARE PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ME OF CIA CONNECTIONS AND HIS FALSE CHARGES THAT I WAS EXPELLED FROM PERU BEING USED TO UNDERMINE MY PERSONAL REPUTATION AS WELL AS MY INTEGRITY AS DIPLOMAT BUT NOW, AS INDICATED IN MVD 3410, A LOCAL DISTORTION IS BEING CONCOCTED TO ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN ME AND THE BORDABERRY GOVERNMENT, AND ALSO BETWEEN THAT GOVERNMENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO IS PORTRAYED AS DIRECTING ME AND OFFICE DIRECTOR ORTIZ IN A DESTABILIZING MANEUVER FAVORING THE OPPOSITION TO THE BORDABERRY GOVERNMENT.

WHILE I DO NOT BELIEVE THE LATTER, TRANSPARENT EFFORT CAN HURT MY RELATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OR WITH FONMINISTER BLANCO, OR FRANK ORTIZ' FINE REPUTATION WITH THEM, THE EFFORT CAN HAVE AN IMPACT WITH THE, SUSCEPTIBLE, THE SUSPICIOUS AND THE ILL-DISPOSED, AND IT DOES SERVE

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TO ILLUSTRATE THE UNFORTUNATE WAY IN WHICH VELASCO'S FALSE CHARGES

CAN BE USED TO OUR DETRIMENT. FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS I DO BELIEVE THAT A DENIAL OF VELASCO'S CHARGES IS NEEDED AND I AM TAKING STEPS TODAY, AS AUTHORIZED, FORMALLY AND PRIVATELY TO CONVEY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY THE TRUE FACTS OF MY DEPARTURE FROM PERU AS WELL AS A DENIAL OF ANY ASSOCIATION WITH THE CIA. I WILL ALSO DEAL WITH THE ORTIZ ISSUE AS DIRECTED IN STATE 255877.

2. BUT IN ADDITION, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, AS RECOMMENDED BY AMBASSADOR DEAN AND ME, THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS PUBLICLY TO DENY VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH PUBLIC DENIAL, AND GIVEN THE UNDERSTANDABLE DISCLAIMER WHICH AMB DEAN MADE OF A UPI REPORT

OUT OF WASHINGTON WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, THE APPEARANCE OF SOME ELEMENT OF TRUTH IN VELASCO'S CHARGES AS TO ME IS UNFORTUNATELY

GIVEN. WHILE I APPRECIATE THE DELICACY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO STATEMENTS OF A CHIEF OF STATE, I DO NOT SEE HOW AN HONEST, STRAIGHTFORWARD, NON-POLEMICAL STATEMENT, PUBLICLY GIVEN IN RESPECT TO A QUESTION WHICH COULD EASILY BE INSPIRED, TO THE EFFECT THAT

I AM NOT AND HAVE NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CIA AND IN PARTICULAR THAT THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT NEVER DID REQUEST MY DEPARTURE FROM THAT COUNTRY, WHICH DEPARTURE WAS IN EVERY WAY NORMAL AND FRIENDLY, WOULD NOT BE IN ORDER. I THEREFORE REQUEST AND RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT. BY WAY OF INFORMATION ADDITIONAL TO THAT CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 1-A OF MVD 3357, IT MAY BE OF INTEREST THAT MY PASSPORT, ISSUED UPON MY BEING NAMED AMBASSADOR TO BOLIVIA AFTER LEAVING PERU IN 1969, CONTAINS IN IT ELEVEN DIPLOMATIC VISAS WHICH WERE GIVEN TO ME BY PERUVIAN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON, LA PAZ, AND MONTEVIDEO TO COVER THAT MANY VISITS WHICH I HAVE MADE TO PERU SINCE LEAVING THAT COUNTRY. QUITE OBVIOUSLY, SUCH VISITS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE BY SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM PERU.

SIRACUSA

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MISS MATTESON
11/21/74.

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